

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application. This reply is submitted in response to the office action mailed on August 24, 2006. Claims 17-40 are currently pending.

Telephone Correspondence

Applicant thanks the examiner for his telephone voicemail of October 4, 2006, responding to applicant's voicemail of October 2, 2006. Applicant understands that references to prior rejections in the outstanding action are to be ignored, and that the obviousness rejection discussed below is the only outstanding rejection.

Claim Rejections

Claims 17-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda et al., US Patent No. 6,930,987 B1 (hereinafter "Fukuda") in view of Ali et al., US Patent No. 6,353,927 B1 (hereinafter "Ali").

In independent claims 17, 27, 33, and 38, applicant claims "activating an idle storage device in a computer system to transfer data [to the storage device] while a main processor of the computer system remains idle."

Fukuda appears to disclose a radio communication CPU that is in a communication idle mode. Upon receiving a control packet from the host CPU, the radio communication CPU shifts from the communication idle mode to a 'IN transaction mode', in which user data from the host CPU can be transmitted to the radio communication CPU.

Thus, Fukuda appears to disclose transferring data by awakening the radio communication CPU, teaches away from claimed invention which allows a main processor to

remain in an idle state. Therefore, Fukuda does not teach or suggest the claimed invention and does not support a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to independent claims 17, 27, 33, and 38, and the claims that depend therefrom. Indeed, the present action, dated August 24, 2006, implies this deficiency at the bottom of page 3 and top of page 4 when providing the rationale for the combination of Ali with Fukuda.

Moreover, Ali appears to disclose using an external processor to hold an on-board processor in a reset state. Upon determining a suitable time, perhaps when the on-board processor has entered an idle or otherwise suitable state, the external processor takes control of the on-board processor and control signals to the memory integrated circuit. See Ali, Abstract; col. 3, lns. 18-26; and col. 4, lns. 36-49.

Thus, Ali appears to disclose a second processor that resets and holds a main processor in order to access the memory of the system of the main processor, which teaches away from the claimed invention which allows a main processor to remain in an idle state and does not require resetting or holding the main processor. Therefore, Ali does not teach or suggest the claimed invention and does not support a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to independent claims 17, 27, 33, and 38, and the claims that depend therefrom.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding office action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this reply is respectfully requested.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

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